
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SCHOOL BULLYING.

1 WHEREAS, all students have the right to participate fully
2 in the education process, free from bullying; and
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4 WHEREAS, a safe and civil environment in school is
5 necessary for students to learn and to meet high academic
6 standards; and
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8 WHEREAS, bullying, like other disruptive or violent
9 behaviors, disrupts a student's ability to learn and a school's
10 ability to educate its students in a safe environment; and
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12 WHEREAS, the administrative rules of the Department of
13 Education require any teacher, official, or other employee of
14 the department who is a witness to school bullying, or who has
15 reasonable cause to believe that school bullying has been
16 committed or will be committed, against a student, teacher,
17 official, or other employee of the department, or involving
18 school property, must promptly report the incident to the
19 principal or the principal's designee; and
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21 WHEREAS, Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, requires the
22 Board of Education to oversee the Department of Education's
23 compliance with administrative rules and statutes regarding
24 bullying, including required reporting procedures; and
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26 WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the Department of
27 Education, studies indicate that bullying continues to be a
28 problem in Hawaii public schools and that children with
29 disabilities are two to three times more likely to be victims of
30 bullying than their nondisabled peers; and
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1 WHEREAS, the bullying of disabled students raises the
2 specter of renewed federal court intervention in the
3 administration of Hawaii's public schools, similar to what took
4 place in the 1990's; and

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6 WHEREAS, because students learn by example, school
7 administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be
8 expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with
9 civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying; now,
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Superintendent
15 of Education is requested to convene a task force to address the
16 issue of school bullying; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
19 is requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
22 is requested to invite the following persons to serve as members
23 on the task force:

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25 (1) The Attorney General, or designee;
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27 (2) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
28 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives;
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31 (3) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
32 President of the Senate;
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34 (4) A licensed attorney to be appointed by the President
35 of the Hawaii State Bar Association;
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37 (5) Two public school teachers, to be appointed by the
38 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association;
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40 (6) Two parents of public school children, to be appointed
41 by the Superintendent of Education; and
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43 (7) Other interested persons, to be appointed by the
44 Superintendent of Education; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
3 requested to submit a report of its findings and
4 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
5 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the Regular Session of 2014; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
9 Bureau is requested to assist the task force in finalizing its
10 report and any proposed legislation to implement the task
11 force's recommendations; provided that the task force is
12 requested to submit a draft of its report and any proposed
13 legislation to the Bureau no later than November 1, 2013; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
17 of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the President of
18 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
19 Attorney General, the President of the Hawaii State Bar
20 Association, the President of the Hawaii State Teachers
21 Association, and the Director of the Legislative Reference
22 Bureau.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 13 2013

